



city of
greenville

News Release

2013 FIRE PREVENTION WEEK TO FOCUS ON PREVENTING KITCHEN FIRES

(Greenville SC) Fire Prevention Week kicks off on October 6 and the Greenville City Fire Department is joining forces with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to spread the word about the dangers of kitchen fires – most of which result from unattended cooking — and teach local residents how to prevent kitchen fires from starting in the first place. According to the latest NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen — more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

"Often when we're called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," said Fire Inspector L.C. Dendy. "Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will help us reach folks in the community before they've suffered a damaging lesson."

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country and is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. Below are some of the safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling or boiling food
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove
- When you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home and use a timer to remind you
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible and keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.

- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops

Greenville residents are invited to visit any of the City's fire stations during the week of October 6-12 for smoke detector demonstrations, literature and fire safety tips for the home. There will also be activities for the kids. For a list of fire stations, visit <http://www.greenvillesc.gov/FireDept/FireSuppression.aspx>.

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